Section 508 Refresh

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Introduction

TEITAC!

- §508 of the Rehabilitation Act
  - **federal** agency procurement and development of electronic and information technology (E&IT)

- §255 of the 1996 Communications Act
  - Industry mandate, only for telecommunication

Missouri's 508 Connection

State statute requires access similar to 508

- Covers state agencies and public higher ed
- Vests oversight with CIO and AT Council
- Requires STATE adoption of access standards

Used Section 508 technical standards as base

- Adopted software, desktop/portable & documentation
- Modified web, telecom, video & multimedia
- Did not adopt self-contained or functional standards

TEITAC!

Missouri Modifications to 508 standards

- Web – Reduced synchronized text equivalent from 100%

- Telecom – Added relay reference to voice mail/IVR ensure access for VCO and HCO

- Telecom – Adjusted maximum output and volume gain and reset to harmonize with 255

- Multimedia – Revised 100% captioning and video description requirements

Federal need for updating

- Access Board noted frequent requests for clarification and technical assistance on 508
  - what products are covered?
  - what do the technical standards mean?

- Harmonization (state-federal-international)

- Technological changes from 2000
  - products merging categories now used in Section 508
  - increased AT/IT interoperability issues

Telecommunications and Electronic and Information Technology Committee (TEITAC) Begins...

- TEITAC members were recruited broadly
  - federal agencies (excluding those on Access Board)
  - IT and AT industries and their trade associations
  - standards organizations
  - consumer advocates
  - researchers and developers
  - national and international policy experts and consultants
  - ** representatives of state associations (2)

- Access Board selected TEITAC members

- Adobe Systems, Inc.
- American Association of People with Disabilities
- American Council of the Blind
- American Foundation for the Blind
- AOL LLC
- Apple, Inc.
- *Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs*
- Assistive Technology Industry Association
- AT&T
- Avaya, Inc.
- Canon USA, Inc.
- Communication Service for the Deaf
- CTIA - The Wireless Association
- Dell, Inc.
- Easter Seals
- European Commission
- Hearing Loss Association of America
- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (Australia)
- IBM
- Inclusive Technologies
- Industry Canada
- Information Technology Association of America

- Information Technology Industry Council
- Japanese Standards Association
- Microsoft Corporation
- *National Association of State Chief Information Officers*
- National Center on Disability and Access to Education
- National Federation of the Blind
- National Network of Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers
- Panasonic Corporation of North America
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- SRA International, Inc.
- Sun Microsystems, Inc.
- Telecommunications Industry Association
- The Paciello Group, LLP
- Trace Research and Development Center
- Usability Professionals' Association
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- WGBH National Center for Accessible Media
- World Wide Web Consortium – Web Accessibility Initiative

TEITAC Process

- Bi-monthly, up to multiple weekly meetings

- Subcommittee structure; weekly calls; public participation

- Listservs and wiki tracking of drafts, http://teitac.org/wiki/

- Attempt to reach consensus

- Final Report, www.access-board.gov/sec508/refresh/report

Major TEITAC Recommendations

- Change from product "characteristics" to "categories"
  - Real-time Voice Conversation Functionality
  - Speech Output or Throughput
  - User Interface and Electronic Content

- Largely harmonized with WCAG 2.0 and ISO 9241-171

- Software, web, and wide scope of electronic content converged and covered with expanded technical standards.

- New requirements for deployment of E&IT
  - Relay access
  - Accessibility configuration

Major State Concerns

- Significantly increased volume and level of complexity
  - Telecommunication Products - from 11 to 57 provisions
  - Definitions - from 12 to 58

- For Procurement
  - Difficult to rate conformance based on vendor provided information
  - Technical expertise essential – not available

- For Direct Delivery by Covered State Agencies
  - Level set by standards unreachable
  - Captioning, video description, electronic content

Items not "Consensed" Missouri might consider

- Exception for Narrow, Delineated Use Products
  - Personal use items
  - Easy to purchase accessible items as needed
  - Calculators, tape recorders, electronic dictionaries, etc.

- Allowing Product Line Accessibility

- Application of Functional Performance Criteria

What happens next?

- Access Board will review TEITAC report and develop proposed rules
  - Proposed rules not anticipated until 2009
  - Time between proposed rules and final could be 6 months to a year

- TEITAC acknowledged that new structure would require an interface tool to allow implementation
  - No specific funding to support such tool

What happens next in Missouri?

- Missouri's statute charges the CIO and AT Council with standards adoption
  - Will review federal standards when final
  - Will critically evaluate
    - Structure and complexity
    - Level of access set
    - Scope of applicability

- Will adopt, adapt or reject standards as appropriate for Missouri (will limit or reduce – not expand)

Stay Tuned . . .

TEITAC!

- We're just beginning this process

- Reach out and network with others who are implementing

- Get involved when opportunities for comment and input arise